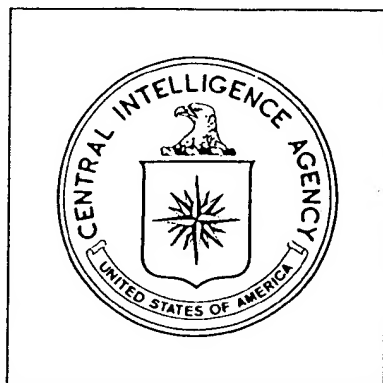


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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the USSR - Eastern Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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USSR-China: General Gankovsky's
Return to Peking

Soviet embassy officials in Peking have told that the "unexpected" return of General Gankovsky, deputy chief of the Soviet team at the Sino-Soviet border talks, to Peking on September 26 is aimed at probing for any signs of softening in China's attitude toward the USSR. Gankovsky is normally posted in Peking, but according to a Yugoslav press story, he had not been there for six months.

Moscow's chief negotiator at the talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev, has not been in Peking since May 1975. The Soviets could have sent Ilichev back to do the "soundings," but they and the Chinese seem to have been in a struggle of wills over his return, the Soviets looking for something that could be construed as an invitation, the Chinese adamantly refusing to accommodate. With Gankovsky, Moscow will not lose face. The Sino-Soviet border talks have made little progress since they began in 1969, and almost none over the last two years. If the Chinese are even moderately civil to Gankovsky, the Soviets are likely to be encouraged. As of September 29, however, Gankovsky had apparently had no meetings with the Chinese. ~~(TOP SECRET)~~

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Jamaica: Soviets To Open an Embassy?

The Manley government is reportedly considering a request by the Soviet Union to establish a resident mission in Kingston headed by a senior ambassador. The Foreign Ministry is said to have recommended that the government respond favorably to the Soviet request with a proviso limiting the number of Soviet diplomatic personnel. The Foreign Ministry may, however, be exaggerating the extent of Soviet interest in Jamaica. It claims that to underscore the importance it now gives to Jamaica, Moscow is planning to send as resident ambassador one of its most senior Latin American specialists, Yurily Volskiy, currently ambassador to Mexico. Volskiy assumed his post in Mexico last June after earlier service as ambassador in Buenos Aires. We believe that it is highly unlikely the Soviets would transfer Volskiy from the Mexico City embassy--one of its most important in Latin America--to Kingston. More plausibly, Volskiy's portfolio would be expanded to enable him to serve as non-resident ambassador to Jamaica.

Diplomatic relations between the USSR and Jamaica were established in March 1975, but Manley decided last summer to postpone the opening of a Soviet embassy because of an anticipated negative domestic political reaction. It seems highly unlikely that Manley would reverse that decision now with elections only a few months away. In fact, Curtis Griffiths, the head of the Special Branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, reportedly recommended that a decision be deferred until after the elections. Despite his close Cuban ties, Griffiths is particularly sensitive to the anti-communist sentiment in the countryside after--at Manley's direction--surveying public reaction to the Cuban presence last spring.

If Manley is returned to power--as seems probable--he can be expected to accede quickly to the Soviet request. His government badly needs foreign

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economic assistance and would have no qualms about seeking such aid from the Soviet Union. Hungary, for example, agreed last spring to build an alumina refinery in Jamaica pending the outcome of feasibility studies, and the Jamaicans reportedly hope to sell their bauxite products to other East European countries and the USSR.

For its part, Moscow has recently demonstrated increasing interest in Jamaica. Soviet media have highlighted charges that the US is trying to destabilize the Manley government. In addition, for the first time a group of young Jamaican trade unionists--supporters of a leading leftist who has ties with Manley's entourage--have been granted scholarships to study at Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow. While the Soviets are unlikely to bail out the Jamaican economy with a large loan, they are probably disposed at least to buy more Jamaican bauxite and alumina. (~~SECRET~~)

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